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EXAMINER	
GUPTA, MUKTESH G	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2144	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/788,860	BARLOW, WILLIAM C.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Muktesh G. Gupta	2144	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *31 January 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-17* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *5* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-4 and 6-17* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. **Claims 1, and 6,** are amended.

   Claim 5, is cancelled.

   Claims 1-4, and 6-17, have been examined on merits and are pending.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's cancellation of **Claim 5,** is acknowledged.

3. Applicant's amendment to **Claims 1 and 6,** is acknowledged.

4. Applicant's amendment filed on 01/31/2008 necessitated a new ground(s) of rejection presented in this office action. Applicant's arguments with respect to **Claims 1-4, and 6-17,** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

5. **Claims 1-4, and 6-17,** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6564261 to Gudjonsson et al. (hereinafter "Gudjonsson").

As to Claim 1, Gudjonsson teaches system for Web conference provisioning system comprising a policy manager coupled to at least two different Web conferencing platforms over a computer communications network, said policy manager having a configuration for processing a policy set forth in a policy document and for processing a request for a Web conferencing from a communicatively linked end user to select one of said Web conferencing platforms to host said Web conference (as stated in col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 1-2 and col. 3, lines 1-17, ***A system/network*** includes a plurality of client applications and a back-end server system having a ***plurality of clusters (running on different platforms)*** and to provide ***users*** with a simple and secure way of ***establishing*** arbitrary ***communication sessions*** with ***other users*** or ***services providers***, running either over ***IP networks or other networks***. It also provides ***operators or managers (policy managers)*** of at least ***one cluster*** a comprehensive environment in which to ***deploy (host)*** value added ***services***, search engine services, database services, shopping services, video conferencing services, ***web conferencing services***, to their users and to be able to charge for their use, as well as providing them a way to link their installed ***base of services*** over to IP networks. In basic terms system/network act as a broker(s), and can ***broker communication services*** between ***two or more people/services providers***, using the user ***management functions, security, authentication*** features, make contact information available and ***configurable centrally***, independent of ***devices (platforms)***, and give ***users*** a ***single address*** to use for all ***communications,*** of the ***system/network*** as their

base. Since the ***system/network*** is designed to offer ***accessibility*** and ***mobility***, a ***user*** will be able to access his or her data and ***services*** from ***virtually*** any ***communication device—computer, PDA, Mobile***, ensuring a broad reach for Value-Added Services of the ***system/network***, such as ***web conferencing)***.

Further, as stated in col. 11, lines 27-30, col. 28, lines 8-11, Gudjonsson teaches cluster ***operators/managers*** using the user ***management functions,*** to ***configure*** the inter-cluster service to allow remote access to a ***set of services (web conference service)*** requested by the user. Thus ***operators/managers*** provide specific value added services which can be made exclusive for a given cluster and control the access of users to these resources and by way of ***monitoring*** their usage based on ***user profile***, ***account types*** for users, where each ***account type*** gives access to some ***set of services***. In this manner, ***control*** and ***monitor*** of ***services*** usage is ***administered*** and ***governed*** easily by ***operators/managers*** based on the ***user profile***, ***account types*** and ***policy set*** for the ***services*** and requested by the users. Example, for more detailed charging, each ***service*** can ***define*** its own billing ***policy*** and act accordingly.

As to Claim 2, Gudjonsson teaches system of claim 1, wherein said at least two different Web conferencing platforms comprise a platform selected from the group consisting of a customer premises equipment based platform and a hosted platform (as stated in col. 2, lines 51-67, system includes confederated ***network*** of server

clusters (group) along with ***any number*** of ***client terminals (customer premises equipment)*** that connect to the ***clusters***. ***Terminals/clients*** are software entities running under ***different operating system platforms*** or ***any other device*** running on some ***communication network*** that can have ***access*** to the ***cluster***. Terminals/clients can ***gain access (selected from the group)*** to any number of ***services*** running ***within the cluster***, or to services running in ***other clusters***. The connection between the ***terminals/clients*** and the ***cluster*** is ***secure***, and use ***cryptography***).

As to Claim 3, Gudjonsson teaches system of claim 1, further comprising a firewall disposed between said end user and said policy manager (as stated in col. 8, lines 18-34, External ***users*** 7 and their respective ***clients*** 11 a user's PC, mobile phone, and/or PDA can ***connect*** to ***services*** within the ***cluster*** via a special connection service, that typically runs on connection servers at the boundary of the ***cluster's firewall*** 9, and listens for connections on a specific port. Streams ***established*** through that service are ***secure*** and ***encrypted***. As such, the cluster 1 along with all connected users 7 and clients 11 can form a ***virtual private network*** within which connections between services can be freely established. ***Connections*** can also be made between ***services*** and/or ***users*** 7 in ***different clusters*** 1, as illustrated in FIG. 1. Such connections go through a special ***inter-cluster service***, which is also ***secure and encrypted).***

As to Claim 4, Gudjonsson teaches system of claim 1, further comprising a demilitarized zone firewall disposed in between said policy manager and end users coupled to said policy manager of a public Internet (as stated in col. 32, lines 27-34, ***Connection Servers of service providers*** lie on the boundary ***between*** the ***unsecured Internet*** and the ***secure Intranet*** that ***hosts*** the ***cluster*** 1. Connection Servers may see all connected clients' traffic in clear text, and also contain their own private keys in clear text. Because Connection Servers are ***open to connections (demilitarized zone)*** from the ***unsecured Internet*** and handle all ***terminals/client (end users)*** communications, they ***function*** as ***firewalls***).

As to Claim 6, Gudjonsson teaches system of claim 1, wherein said at least one policy specifies a platform selection based upon criteria selected from the group consisting of a number of participants to said Web conference, whether said participants are internal or external to a private network of said end user, a set of features desired for use in said Web conference, a security level required for said Web conference, and a priority of said Web conference (as stated in preceding paragraph and col.11, lines 33-64, when the ***user*** 7 launches the application, he/she is prompted for his ***user identity***, which includes the ***address to his operator***, and a password to be ***securely authenticated***. At this point, the client 11 connects to the corresponding server 3 and establishes a secure connection with it. If logging on is successful, the ball opens and exposes variety of ***functions/services*** *(and further as stated in col. 7, lines 57-59 , Access to the* ***services (web conference***

services) *is provided either by lightweight clients, running on various* ***operating platforms*** *or through gateways for browser based systems)* and displays status of on-line/off-line users of the system, which may be utilized by the user/client. One such function is known as a contact list. This list is maintained by the user and may include, other individuals that the users knows and has contact with and optionally addresses or IDs of the other users. The list can easily be organized by defining ***folders/groups*** based on ***criteria selected***, as well as choose from different display modes. The user can enter new contacts, either by typing in their system/network identity or by initiating a search in a ***directory service***, where they can search according to ***various criteria***, such as names, e-mail, groups, status, services et cetera).

Further as stated in col.7, lines 60-67, Gudjonsson teaches system/network which is designed to enable easy building and operation of Value Added Services, using the user management functions, security, authentication and charging features of the system/network as their base and is designed to offer ***accessibility*** *and* ***mobility****, a user will be able to access his or her* ***data and services*** *from virtually any communication device--computer, mobile phone, handheld devices etc. ensuring a broad reach for Value-Added Services of the system/network to the user.*

As to Claim 7, Gudjonsson teaches system of claim 6, wherein said set of features comprises at least one feature selected from the group consisting of screen sharing, slideshow presentations, streaming audio, voice over IP, audio

conferencing, the use of on-premise audio equipment, audio recording, joint Web browsing, chat and instant messaging and streaming video (as stated in preceding paragraph and col.12, lines 55-67, col.13, lines 1-19, col.24, lines 32-35, col. 25, lines 6-9, By selecting users from this contact list, a variety of functions become available to the selecting user. This information may be a combination of items that the contact has actually defined for him. In addition, a function, which becomes available to the selecting user is the ability to ***send invitations*** to the ***selected contact/group*** from the list asking another ***user/group*** to join the inviting user in a ***communication session*** of a ***given type (web conferencing)***. There is ***no limitation*** on what ***kind of invitations*** can be sent, these elementary types include, ***Pages***, ***real-time text chat session***, ***real-time voice session*** and ***web conference***, these invitation allow users to ***share*** navigation on the Web, such that the Web navigation of one user is reflected on the other user's ***browser***. FIG. 14 is a flowchart illustrating how a first user, user #1 can ***establish*** a ***communications session***, ***voice chat***, ***text chat***, ***web conference,*** etc., with a second user, user #2 using ***one or more clusters*** of the ***network***. Apart from sending pages, a function of the routing service 33 is to act as a tool with which users can rendezvous in ***any kind of session***, be it a ***telephone call***, ***a text chat***, a ***video conference***, or ***web conference***).

As to Claims 8 and 13, Gudjonsson teaches Web conference provisioning method comprising the steps of (as stated in col. 1, lines 12-15, ***system*** and

corresponding ***method*** of ***establishing communication session(s) (web conference) between users*** as a ***function*** of their availability and/or ***communication device(s)***):

machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for Web conference provisioning, the computer program comprising a routine set of instructions which when executed by a machine causes the machine to perform the steps of (as stated in col. 38, lines 8-32, col. 34, lines 26-49, ***application (computer program)*** is aimed at users who have access to the ***Internet*** and an account with an internet service provider, using ***computer devices*** running on various ***operating systems platforms*** and have ***downloaded/stored/executed their application*** from the ***ISP/ Internet***. The system/network is designed to ***features text*** and ***voice capabilities***, and is a standard ***GUI program*** with a persistent connection to the server. The "web client" is a very basic client to the application, which enables ***users*** with access to a forms-enabled ***browser*** to send anyone in the community a page and provides users with a simple and secure way of ***establishing communication sessions*** with other ***users*** or ***services***, running either over ***IP networks*** or ***other networks***):

establishing criteria for a proposed Web conference (as stated in preceding paragraphs of claim 1 and col.8, lines 47-65, col.11, lines 44-64, by default a cluster 1 will run a basic ***set of services (establishing criteria for communication session)*** which offer the following ***features***, allow each user 7 to have a ***unique identity (criteria)*** within all clusters, provide each user 7 the ability to connect and

be ***securely authenticated (criteria)*** by the ***cluster*** 1 using that identity, provide each user 7 the ability to ***define arbitrary sets of data related to that identity,*** this data is persisted or stored in the database 13, and this data is referred to herein as "presence" data of the user, provide each user 7 the ability ***to publish a dynamic status information and/or presence information related to their identity (criteria)***, provide each user 7 the ability to monitor the status/presence of a given set of other users 7 in the ***same or different cluster(s),*** and be notified of any change thereof; and provide each user 7 the ability to look for other user's identity(ies) using ***queries*** by name/group or other ***useful criteria***);

and, applying at least one policy to said criteria to identify a platform for hosting said proposed Web conference (as stated in col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 1-2 and col. 3, lines 1-17, Basic ***services*** which may be provided within each ***cluster***, include ***dynamic user properties***, ***contact list*** and ***contact notification***, that allow users to subscribe and be notified of the online status of other users, routing service, that allows users to ***send requests or invitations*** for ***communication sessions (web conference)*** to other ***users***, as well as ***configure*** how these invitations are handled depending on the user's current presence information, ***device information (PC, PDA, Mobile platforms)*** and to ***establish*** an ***communication sessions, as text chat session***, ***voice chat session*** and ***web conference*** over ***networks*** with other ***users/service providers***).

As to Claims 9 and 14, Gudjonsson teaches method of claims 8 and 13, further comprising the steps of resolving an address to said identified platform (as stated in col. 3, lines 14-27, lines 28-36, ***routing service*** allows ***users*** to send ***invitations*** to ***other users*** to ***establish*** an arbitrary ***communication session*** (e.g., text chat session, voice chat session, ***web conference***, etc.) over arbitrary ***networks***. The ***cluster*** and ***services*** within it make the ***necessary minimum setup (resolving address)*** for the ***session*** to be ***established***);

imbedding said address in an invitation to participate in said proposed Web conference (as stated in col. 3, lines 14-27, lines 28-36, ***clusters*** can forward ***requests*** to other ***clusters***, and thus insure the ***connectivity*** of ***all clusters*** within the system and the ***routing service (imbedding address)*** for the ***sending/inviting user*** sends the **invitation** to the **routing service** for the **receiving user);**

and, forwarding said invitation to selected participants in said proposed Web conference (as stated in col. 3, lines 14-27, lines 28-36, routing service for the receiving user determines, according to a logic specified by the same receiving user, how the request is handled and what services are available to handle the request and ***forward*** the ***invitation*** to the ***receiving user's*** terminal/client, may forward the invitation to the receiving user's mobile phone, or may forward the invitation to the receiving user's inbox so that the user may later read the invitation).

As to Claims 10 and 15, Gudjonsson teaches method of claims 8 and 13, further comprising the steps of: re-establishing said criteria; and, applying said at

least one policy to said re-established criteria to identify a different platform for hosting said proposed Web conference (as stated in col. 3, lines 14-27, lines 28-36, routing service for the receiving user determines, ***according*** to a ***logic specified (policy specified and stored in profile of the user)*** by the same ***receiving user***, how the request is handled and what services are available to handle the request and ***forward*** the ***invitation*** to the ***receiving user's terminal/client***, may forward the invitation to the receiving user's ***mobile phone/PDA***, or may forward the invitation to the receiving user's inbox so that the user may later read the invitation).

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As to Claims 11 and 16, Gudjonsson teaches method of claims 8 and 13, further comprising the step of performing said establishing and applying steps responsive to a request to schedule said proposed Web conference (as stated in col. 27, lines 62-67, col. 28, lines 1-7, ***session service are responsible for*** handling ***session management***. The user that ***initiates*** a session i.e. creates a conference or initiates file transfer, ***owns the session***).

As to Claims 12 and 17, Gudjonsson teaches method of claims 8 and 13, further comprising the step of performing said establishing and applying steps when activating said proposed Web conference (as stated preceding paragraphs and in col. 27, lines 62-67, col. 28, lines 1-7, Other users 7 get ***invitations*** to the ***session***, which contain ***directions*** on how to ***connect to the session***, and this is handled by the ***session management*** server keeping a list of users that acknowledge the

invitation to join the ***conference*** and establishes connections to enter the conference*)*.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments, with regards to **Claims 1-4, and 6-17,** filed 31 January 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant's arguments, on page 7 of Remarks regarding "Characterization of Gudjonsson", as each and every elements and limitations of the claimed invention of the applicant has been taught by Gudjonsson and which are referenced to individual claims in the preceding paragraphs.

Further as stated in col.7, lines 60-67, Gudjonsson teaches system/network which is designed to enable easy building and operation of Value Added Services, using the user management functions, security, authentication and charging features of the system/network as their base and is designed to offer ***accessibility*** *and* ***mobility****, a* ***user*** *will be able to* ***access*** *his or her* ***data and services*** *from virtually any communication device--computer, mobile phone, handheld devices etc. ensuring a broad reach for Value-Added Services of the system/network to the user.*

The Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant's arguments, on page 8 of Remarks regarding "applicant's amended claim 1 referring to a policy manager", *Further, as stated in col. 11, lines 27-30, col. 28, lines 8-11, Gudjonsson teaches cluster* ***operators/managers*** *using the user* ***management functions,*** *to* ***configure***

the inter-cluster service to allow remote access to a ***set of services (web conference service)*** *requested by the user. Thus* ***operators/managers*** *provide specific value added services which can be made exclusive for a given cluster and control the access of users to these resources and by way of* ***monitoring*** *their usage based on* ***user profile***, ***account types*** *for users, where each* ***account type*** *gives access to some* ***set of services***. *In this manner,* ***control*** *and* ***monitor*** *of* ***services*** *usage is* ***administered*** *easily by* ***operators/managers*** *based on the* ***user profile***, ***account types*** *and* ***policy set*** *for the* ***services*** *and requested by the users. Example, for more detailed charging, each* ***service*** *can* ***define*** *its own billing* ***policy*** *and act accordingly* **.**

Therefore, in view of the above reasons, Examiner maintains rejections.

Action Final

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and

any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MUKTESH G. GUPTA whose telephone number is (571)270-5011. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Taghi T. Arani can be reached on 571-272-3787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the

automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MG

/Taghi T. Arani/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4121

2/15/2008